

# Opening salvo from the CG

My name is LTG Jim Lovelace. First, let me say that it is a privilege to be a Soldier in the United States Army and, as importantly, an honor to serve as the Commanding General of Third Army / U.S. Army Central and especially to be your commander.

I have been absolutely impressed by what I have seen of this organization...we all know, however, that we can never simply rest on our laurels.

The command's focus will be: **Do the mission...protect the force.**

We will:

- **Take care of Families**-The strength of Third Army / U.S. ARCENT relies significantly on the strength of our Families. We formalized this long-recognized fact recently in signing the Army Family Covenant. We will sustain our Third Army Soldiers, Families, and civilians.

- **Succeed in the current conflict**-We support the forces deploying into Afghanistan and Iraq...while also preparing our own formations for the conflict.

- **Reset our units and rebuild readiness**-Continue execution of Title X support and services in theater...as well as uninterrupted support to the Combined, Joint, Operating Area.

- **Continue to transform**-This command is at the forefront of Army Transformation. We'll grow the operational capacity of Third Army / U.S. ARCENT headquarters while capitalizing on the capabilities of the assigned transformed units.

The success of Third Army / U.S. ARCENT will result from teamwork. None of us can do it by ourselves. I will depend heavily on the leaders of this great organization. I'll provide strategic direction for the command and expect leaders to execute in accordance with the mission, intent, and concept of operations.

I am passionate about the importance of leaders and leader development...and the impact they can make on an organization. Foremost, **everyone in this organization is a leader**, regardless of rank. Leaders make the right things happen each day;

leaders make the organization and themselves better. Whatever you do, from wherever you are, make a difference....and be proud of what you do. **Be a Soldier...act like a Soldier...look like a Soldier.**

**Remain ever mentally, physically, and morally ready.**

**NCOs are the backbone of this organization.** The NCO Creed is such a powerful document and its message is potent:

No one is more professional than I....

Competence is my watchword.

Uppermost in my mind...is the accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers.

To be the "Backbone of the Army" and Third Army / U.S. ARCENT, NCOs must live this creed on a daily basis.

The Army has a set of values ... values we cultivate in our ranks ... values we share as an organization ... values which are important to our very existence: **Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.** The other military services have their own sets of formal values, as do our coalition partners. To be part of the best military in the world-and each and every one of us is-inherently requires embracing our respective service values.

We are all part of a great team...all professionals doing the right thing. We will accomplish the mission and protect the force...it's about being a part of the finest military in the world....whether you are a Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Coastguardsman, military civilian, or contractor. Our country is asking a lot of us and our Families...and I know we will deliver.

Again, it's my privilege to be a part of this outstanding team. I look forward to meeting you in the days ahead.

Patton's Own!

*LTG Jim Lovelace*

—Third, Always First



**Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace**  
**Third Army Commanding General**